

## CLAIMS

1. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent so as to inhibit worsening in initial  
5 characteristics thereof.

2. A process for producing a vegetable article, comprising:  
subjecting the vegetable article to a crosslinking reaction by using a  
crosslinking agent so as to inhibit worsening in initial characteristics  
10 thereof.

3. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent, wherein a moisture content change index after washing and dehydration according to JIS L 0217 103 method  
15 defined by the following equation is 0.9 or less.

$$\text{Moisture content change index} = A/B$$

A: Moisture content after one-time washing of crosslinked vegetable  
article

B: Moisture content after one-time washing of uncrosslinked  
20 vegetable article

4. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent, wherein a bulk density change index before washing and after washing and drying according to JIS L 0127 103  
25 method defined by the following equation is 0.7 or less.

Bulk density change index =  $\{(C_1 - C_0)/C_0\}/\{(D_1 - D_0)/D_0\}$

C0: Bulk density before washing of crosslinked vegetable article

C1: Bulk density after one-time washing of crosslinked vegetable  
article

5 D0: Bulk density before washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

D1: Bulk density after one-time washing of uncrosslinked vegetable  
article

5. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking  
10 reaction by using a crosslinking agent, wherein a lightness (L\*) change  
index before washing and after washing according to JIS L 0217 103 method  
defined by the following equation is 0.7 or less.

Lightness change index =  $\{(E_1 - E_0)/E_0\}/\{(F_1 - F_0)/F_0\}$

E0: L\* before washing of crosslinked vegetable article

15 E1: L\* after one-time washing of crosslinked vegetable article

F0: L\* before washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

F1: L\* after one-time washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

6. The vegetable article according to claim 3 or 4, which comprises  
20 a fiber aggregate except for a fruit or a husk and a peel of the fruit and a  
general-use natural cellulose fiber.

7. The vegetable article according to claim 3 or 5, which comprises  
one kind or plural kinds selected from a leaf, a stem, a trunk and a root of a  
25 plant.

8. A product comprising the vegetable article according to claim 1 or any one of claims 3 to 7.